

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 /063 W

----- 093700

R 111916Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6417

SECDEF

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17359

DEFENSE FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: EDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, UK, US

SUBJECT. CONSERVATIVE VIEWS ON SECDEF CHANGE

REF: A) LONDOR 17127 (OTAL); B) LONDON A-896

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1. GEORGE YOUNGER, OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON DEFENSE (MP

CONSERVATIVE), HAD BRIEF APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR "ON URGENT BASIS" NOVEMBER 11. YOUNGER HAD SOUGHT APPOINTMENT, HE EXPLAINED TO EMBASSY OFFICER, TO EXPRESS VIEWS HIS PARTY BEFORE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS.

2. YOUNGER REITERATED TO AMBASSADOR COMMENTS HE MADE IN LETTER TO EDITOR OF DAILY TELEGRAPH PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 7 REFERRING TO CABINET CHANGES IN US (REF A, NOTAL). HE WANTED, HE SAID, TO IMPRESS ON THE AMBASSADOR THE DISTORTION WHICH HAD CREPT INTO BRITISH MEDIA REPORTING ON THE DISMISSAL OF SCHLESINGER. HE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO NOTE, AS SUBSEQUENT PRESS COVERAGE HAD DISCLOSED, THAT THE US WAS NOT SHIFTING ITS DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY POSTURE, PARTICULARLY IN THE NATO CONTEXT, BY DROPPING SCHLESINGER FROM THE CABINET.

3. SCHLESINGER WAS WELL-KNOWN TO BRITISH CONSERVATIVES, AND HIS VIEWS ON DETENTE WERE APPRECIATED HERE. YOUNGER SAID HE HAD BEEN PLEASED TO LEARN THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT RUMSFELD WOULD ESPOUSE A DIFFERENT POSITION ON DETENTE AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

4. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THIS SHOULD BE THE CASE SO THAT BRITAIN AND OTHER NATO ALLIES WOULD CONTINUE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT OF NATO THROUGH NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS. YOUNGER SAID THE CONSERVATIVES "WORRIED" ABOUT LESSERING OF SUPPORT FOR NATO ON THE PART OF SOME OF THEIR EUROPEAN ALLIES AS WELL AS ON THE PART OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE THAT RUMSFELD MADE CLEAR THE CONTINUATION OF LS# POLICY TOWARD NATO AND TOWARD THE DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY MEMBER NATIONS. (PARENTHETICALLY, YOUNGER ADDED THAT THOSE OF HIS PARTY WHO KNEW RUMSFELD ASSURED HIM THAT RUMSFELD HELD VIEWS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SCHLESINGER.)

5. YOUNGER MADE AN ADDITIONAL REQUEST THAT THE CHANGE FROM SCHLESINGER TO RUMSFELD SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO MEAN ANY LESSENING OF US INTEREST IN A "TWO-WAY STREET" FOR NATO ARMAMENTS PROCUREMENT. IT WAS NECESSARY, CONFIDENTIAL

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YOUNGER SAID, TO CONTINUE EMPHASIZING STANDARDIZATION OF WEAPONRY AND SHARED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. YOUNGER SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE AMBASSADOR, IN HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AS SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, WOULD APPRECIATE THE ECONOMIC NECESSITY FOR BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE "TWO-WAY STREET" PROPOSAL.

6. YOUNGER REQUESTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR PROVIDE THESE

VIEWS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY IN HIS CONVERSATIONS IN
WASHINGTON.

RICHARDSON

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, DETENTE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, REORGANIZATIONS, DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON17359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750392-0876
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751155/aaaabwyd.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSERVATIVE VIEWS ON SECDEF CHANGE
TAGS: MASS, MILI, UK, US, NATO, (YOUNGER, GEORGE), (SHESLINGER, JAMES R)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006